

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-10 /082 W

----- 107803

R 301243Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3319

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1584

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY,IR, IZ

SUBJECT: SYRO-IRANIAN RELATIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 1383

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR POURSAARTIP TOLD ME APRIL 30 HE HAD MET LAST WEEK WITH FONMIN KHADDAM TO POINT OUT THAT FURTHER SYRIAN ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING IRAQI "SURRENDER" OF ARAB TERRITORIES (ARABISTAN) TO IRAN COULD ONLY WEAKEN SYRIAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS. POURSAARTIP SAID HE HAD NOTED THAT WHILE TEHRAN RECOGNIZED THE TARGET OF SYRIA'S ATTACK WAS SADDAM HUSSEIN THE SYRIAN BULLETS, ONE OF WHICH KHADDAM HIMSELF HAD FIRED, HAD NICKED BOTH THE SHAH AND BOUMEDIENE. KHADDAM URGED THE AMBASSADOR TO DISREGARD "A FEW JABS" MADE AT THE RECENT SYRIAN BAATH CONGRESS AND AFFIRMED SYRIA HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF DAMAGING SYRO-IRANIAN RELATIONS. HE THEN, ACCORDING TO POURSAARTIP, LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, BUT WITHOUT COMMENT, TO A HISTORICAL REVIEW BEGINNING WITH THE ONE TIME  
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SITING OF PERSIAN CAPITAL 15 KMS FROM THE VILLAGE OF

BAGHDAD AND CULMINATING WITH ASSERTION THAT WHAT NATIONAL EXISTENCE IRAQ ENJOYED DATED FROM THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THAT WAS A GIFT BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM.

2. ASKED IF IRANIAN IRRITATION WITH SYRIA HAD LED TEHRAN TO RETHINK ITS PROPOSED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO DAMASCUS, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT MATTERS HAD NOT REACHED THIS POINT. FINANCE MINISTER ANSARI HAD VISITED DAMASCUS AFTER THE FIRST SYRIAN BLAST ABOUT ARABISTAN AND SYRIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY WAS SCHEDULED TO RETURN THIS VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ALTHOUGH THAT DATE HAD NOT BEEN SCHEDULED.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR POURSAITIP APPEARS PERSUADED THAT HE LEFT THE IRREPRESSIBLE KHADDAM CHASTENED AND SOBERED. HOWEVER, GIVEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAYDAR'S MORE RECENT COMMENTS ON IRAQI SURRENDER OF ARAB LAND (DAMASCUS 1582), WE PROBABLY HAVE NOT HEARD THE END OF THIS PROPAGANDA LINE.

MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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